
Preface

Books mark the progress of Man since they were invented. Through them we are able to gain insight into the minds of our predecessors better than through any other medium. They describe how the delicate interplay between practice and ideal, which is better known as evolution, has brought forward the societies in which we now live. A book marks the synthesis of knowledge in a different way from individual papers. A certain maturity and volume of understanding and knowledge is necessary before the material is suitable for a book. The timing of the cognitive and analytical synthesis represented by a book is therefore crucial; too soon and it is lost in speculation, too late and it is old news.

Non-melanoma skin cancer is common; it causes morbidity, it causes a burden on society, and treatment has been traditionally almost exclusively surgical. Decades of medical science have however now brought forward a number of techniques which may help both the diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer without physically removing it, either alone or in combination in treatment programs tailored to the individual patients.

This book is an attempt at providing a timely synthesis of knowledge about the burden of non-melanoma skin cancer, the nonsurgical options for treatment and the range of adjuvant therapies available. The Editors are greatly indebted to the many eminent scholars who have kindly contributed their insight and understanding of this complex area to this review of the state of the art. The insight is theirs, any oversight is ours. We hope that the readers' academic enthusiasm will make them bring some of the ideas presented here both to their research and their patients, so that the book may stimulate a broad move forward in this important area.

Gregor B. E. Jemec
Donald Mיעח
Lajos Kemény

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Jemec, G.B.E.; Kemeny, L.; Miech, D. (Eds.)

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